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Have a question or suggestion?
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Criminal & Juvenile Justice Information Task Force Holds Final Meeting

The Task Force held its final meeting on May 13, 2016, as language before the legislature to combine the Task Force and Policy Group into a single Criminal & Juvenile Justice Information Advisory Group moved toward finalization.

With the governor's signature, new statute language establishing the Advisory Group goes into effect on August 1. The language moved through the legislature as suggested by the Policy Group with a few changes including enabling the group to advise on privacy rights, race and ethnicity; and clarifying funding language.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will reach out to Task Force and Policy Group members to gather information about interest in continued participation as Advisory Group members. The first meeting of the new group will be held after August 1.

Public Civil Commitment Data Recommendations Approved by Task Force for Policy Group Consideration

The Task Force unanimously approved recommendations made by a delivery team on improving law enforcement access to public information about civil commitments.

Law enforcement can already access this information through MNCIS (the court system). The delivery team recommended that patrol personnel receive the information as part of a standard query they already run whenever they encounter individuals in the field. It would include the following information:

1. Active civil commitment Apprehend and Deliver orders;
2. Active civil commitment Revocation Orders;
3. Current and historical civil commitment disposition category, including stayed commitments, but not Continued for Dismissal:

   a. Committed – Chemically Dependent
   b. Committed – Mentally Ill
   c. Committed – Developmentally Disabled
   d. Committed – Mentally Ill and Dangerous
   e. Committed – Sexually Dangerous Person
   f. Committed – Sexual Psychopathic Personality

4. Biographical information related to the identity of the individuals listed above, such as name, gender, and date of birth.

The BCA and the State Court Administration would need to build a data pass to make this possible. The recommendation now goes to the Policy Group for review.

Criminal History System Update

The work to create and ready the new Criminal History System is currently focused on the conversion of data from the existing system to the new system. This process has been challenging. New rules are being implemented and data quality processes are changing.

In addition, workflows to aid in suspense resolution are being added as well as rules to ensure that records are only accessed and distributed as statutes permit. The new system will be ready to deploy in 12-18 months.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Updates

Data Practices

The Data Practices Subcommittee is collecting information from criminal justice practitioners and the public about what is and isn't working with Minnesota data practices laws.

- Interviews with 30-40 criminal justice practitioners will continue through the end of June. Each is being asked a list of 7 or 8 questions developed by Management Analysis & Development (MAD). MAD will compile responses and provide advice on questions to include in the public survey.
- The subcommittee will work with the University of Minnesota on collecting responses from the public. The university's assistance is being provided at no charge as part of a capstone project.
- The subcommittee wants to test the public questions in advance and asked Task Force members to provide information about county fairs or community events where this could be done.

Data and Identification Standards

The subcommittee examined scenarios where an individual is linked to a crime in error, for example, when a person's name and date of birth are used as an alias by another individual involved in a non-felony level criminal justice event.

The group recommended the Task Force consider a proposal to identify minimum requirements to identify an individual beyond a name/DOB, specifically photos for citations and fingerprints for misdemeanors and above. They recommended a vetting process be undertaken for the proposal with advocacy groups and the public.

The Task Force voted in favor of making the recommendations to the Policy Group.

Collaborative Relationships and Funding

This sub-committee brought three legislative budget funding proposals for Task Force consideration. All received unanimous approval to recommend to the Policy Group.

BCA-MNJIS requests funding for redesign, replacement of the Predatory Offender Database

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension requested $4.1 million for a two-year project to redesign and develop a new predatory offender registration system which includes the Predatory Offender Database, the law enforcement website and the public non-compliant website. The project would analyze whether it would be more cost efficient to customize an existing system or build one from scratch.

A system would integrate with the new criminal history system to allow a fully electronic submission process, electronic addition of paper documents, compliance with FBI National Sex Offender Registry requirements, and the flexibility needed for future enhancements.

MCAA, Board of Public Defense request funding for system integration for receipt of court documents

The Minnesota County Attorneys Association and the Board of Public Defense requested $1,250,000 to build an electronic path for documents to pass from the courts to county attorneys and public defenders, and the development of a notification process via case and content management systems when new documents are filed.

These projects would help reduce delays and continuances which occur when attorneys must wait for court documents related to their case. These improvements would also reduce costs for criminal justice agencies.

MCCC User Group, DOC request funding for software development project

The Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative Corrections User Group and the Department of Corrections requested $200,000 to develop software to improve the process of managing an offender's release from prison into community supervision.

The presenters estimated the new technology would save the state $225,000 per year in staff time managing the release to supervision process. It would also improve integration of corrections and supervision data, eliminate data redundancy and improve offender accountability.